

SEA AND LAND CHURCH, Market Street at Henry Street, Borough of Manhattan.
1817; architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 280, Lot 22.

On October 19, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Sea and Land Church and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Calendar No. 66). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One witness spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This attractive Georgian-Gothic church is constructed in a manner simpler than but similar to St. Paul's Chapel although it was built almost fifty years later. It is a survival of the Georgian architectural tradition built in Federal times with the very interesting introduction of Gothic windows and doors. The church antedates the Gothic Revival by some thirty years. Full length windows were used on the long side of the building despite the existence of balconies behind them. The great beauty of the pointed Gothic windows lies in the refinement of having the wood divisions of the window panes (muntins) interlaced, following the lines of the pointed window heads.

There are interesting features worth noting in the construction of the masonry walls. The small stones of the walls are strengthened and stabilized by the introduction of corner stones (quoins), horizontal stone band courses and stone window and door frames.

When Colonel Henry Rutgers, the Revolutionary War patriot, decided to subdivide his farm into building lots, he donated land for the erection of a church. This gift made possible the construction of this building which was renamed "Church of Sea and Land" in 1866 when it began to serve seamen. Architecturally the importance of this church is to be found in its extreme simplicity, fine construction and its introduction - at an early date - of Gothic elements of design.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATIONS

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Sea and Land Church has a special character, special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, the Church of Sea and Land has what were probably among the earliest pointed Gothic windows and doors in Manhattan, that it is an especially fine, simple example of a well constructed church of the Federal period and that its construction was made possible through the generosity of one of New York's leading citizens, Colonel Henry Rutgers.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 8-A of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 8-A of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the Sea and Land Church, Market Street at Henry Street, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 280, Lot 22, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.